

2. *Hypsipetes squamiceps*, which is doubtfully distinct from *H. pryeri* of the Loo-Choo Islands.

3. *Cettia diphone*, which has its nearest ally in *C. cantillans* from Japan.

4. *Haplopteron familiare*, which may be allied either to a species from Formosa or the Malay Archipelago.

5. *Fringilla kittlitzi*, which is most nearly allied to *F. kawaraha* from Japan.

6. *Chaunoproctus ferreirostris*, which may be an ally of *Coccothraustes personatus* changed in colour, or of *Loxia enucleator*, which has changed the size of its bill.

7. *Carpophaga versicolor*, which may be an offshoot of *C. ianthina* from Japan, or of *C. griseigularis* from the Philippine Islands.

8. *Nycticorax crassirostris*, which is doubtfully distinct from *N. caledonica* of Australia.

XI.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. Aitchison on the Zoology of the Afghan Border.

[The Zoology of the Afghan Delimitation Commission. By J. E. T. Aitchison, M.D., C.I.E., F.R.S., F.L.S. Trans. Linn. Soc. 2nd ser. Zool. v. pt. 3. London: May, 1889.]

The authorities objected to have more than one Naturalist attached to the Afghan Delimitation Commission. Consequently Dr. Aitchison, whose "special calling is that of a Botanist," had to undertake the zoological work also, and being unprovided with proper assistants and not able to induce the natives to collect for him, did not make such extensive collections as might well have been formed in the interesting district explored and under the favourable circumstances of the expedition.

In his summary of the results Dr. Aitchison tells us that specimens of 123 species of birds were obtained, and 14 others were recognized. "Amongst these there are only three new species, namely, a Woodpecker (*Gecinus gorii*, Hargitt), a Sparrow (*Passer yatii*, Sharpe), and a Pheasant

(*Phasianus principalis*, Sclater). With few exceptions all the birds observed were migratory, the exceptions being the Pheasant, Raven, Rook, Carrion-Crow, Jackdaw, Sparrow, Starling, the Sky-Lark (*Alauda arvensis*), the Large-crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*), the Bokhara Lark (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*), the Wall-creeper (*Tichodroma muraria*), the Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), an Owl, several of the Raptores, the Black-breasted Sand-Grouse (*Pterocles arenarius*), and a Red-legged Partridge (*Caccabis chukar*).

“As spring advances, birds are seen to arrive, following each other very rapidly, such as *Aedon familiaris*, *Sylvia*, *Saxicola*, *Motacilla*, *Lanius*, *Pastor*, *Merops*, *Coracias*, &c. The various Ducks are then leaving, except the Brahminy (*Casarca rutila*), which breeds there and is resident throughout the year. The largest number of species occur in the genera *Saxicola* (8), *Lanius* (6), *Sylvia* (5), *Motacilla* (5), and *Emberiza* (4).”

The special section on birds is prepared by Mr. Sharpe, who adds to the names of the species such synonymy as bears upon their distribution in the neighbouring parts of Central Asia, and the necessary remarks on the specimens. Dr. Aitchison appends occasional field-notes. The localities and dates of the specimens obtained are precisely recorded, and maps are given to show the routes traversed by the Naturalist. Coloured figures are given of *Gecinus gorii*, *Passer yatii*, and *Phasianus principalis*.

2. Allen on the Species of *Cyclorhis*.

[On *Cyclorhis viridis* (Vieill.) and its near Allies, with Remarks on other Species of the Genus *Cyclorhis*. By J. A. Allen. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. ii. p. 123.]

Mr. Allen has had the advantage of examining 46 specimens of *Cyclorhis* collected at Chapada in Matto Grosso by Mr. H. H. Smith. The information derived from this fine series and from other quarters has enabled him to correct and supplement the observations on this somewhat difficult genus lately published by Graf v. Berlepsch and by the Editor of this

Journal (Ibis, 1887, p. 320, and 1888, p. 83). He recognizes 10 species and 3 subspecies of *Cyclorhis*, of which he gives a synoptical table.

3. Allen on new South-American Birds.

[Descriptions of new Species of South-American Birds, with Remarks on various other little-known Species. By J. A. Allen. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. ii. p. 137.]

Mr. Allen describes as new species *Thryothorus macrurus* from Bogota, *T. longipes* from Ecuador, *Platyrrhynchus bifasciatus* from Matto Grosso (*H. H. Smith*), *P. insularis* from Tobago, *Euscarthmus ochropterus* and *Sublegatus virescens*, both from Matto Grosso (*H. H. Smith*), and *Empidonax lawrencii* (= *Ochthæca flaviventris*, Lawrence), and proposes a new subspecific name (*Thamnophilus doliatus mexicanus*) for the Central American form of *T. doliatus*. He also gives interesting notes on other obscure species—amongst others on *Tanagra cærulescens*, Wied (= *Porphyrospiza pulchra*, Sharpe), and on certain species of *Habrua*, *Phyllomyias*, and *Ornithion*. Mr. Allen has now the Lawrence Collection to work upon, and full access to the types of Lefresnaye and Prince Max. of Wied. We are glad to see that he is making good use of his opportunities.

4. Aplin on the Birds of Oxfordshire.

[The Birds of Oxfordshire. By O. V. Aplin, M.B.O.U. With a map. 8vo. Oxford: 1889.]

The author is one of three ornithological brothers, whose 'Birds of the Banbury District' we noticed favourably in this Journal for 1883, p. 375. In conjunction with the above members of his family, and availing himself of the assistance of Mr. W. Warde Fowler and others, he has now extended his researches so as to embrace the entire county, the result being a work which will bear comparison with any similar treatise on local avifaunas. The introductory sketch of the natural features of Oxfordshire, with the changes wrought by drainage, game-preserving and other causes, is excellent, and a good map, which should always accompany a work of this

kind, facilitates reference to the places mentioned. The Alpine Chough shot at Broughton in April 1881 forms the subject of a coloured frontispiece, and the author points out that not only did the bird show no signs of confinement, but that also, on inquiry, no instances of escapes were forthcoming. All the remarks upon the various species appear to be correct as well as concise, while several interesting facts are set forth; and the entire work is characterized by a complete absence of "padding." We think that Mr. Aplin would have acted wisely in following the arrangement set forth in the "B. O. U." List, rather than that of the 4th edition of "Yarrell"; for the sequence in the latter was obviously and necessarily a compromise, and should never have been accepted as a pattern.

5. *Berlepsch on new Neotropical Birds.*

[Descriptions of new Species and Subspecies of Birds from the Neotropical Region. By Hans von Berlepsch. Auk, v. p. 449.]

In this article are described as new species or subspecies *Campylorhynchus zonatus costaricensis*, *Certhia mexicana albescens*, *Basileuterus godmani* from Veragua, *Eucometis spodocephala pallida* from Yucatan, *E. s. stictothorax* from Veragua, *E. cristata affinis* from Venezuela, *Icterus gularis yucatanensis*, *Myiobius ridgwayi* from Rio, and *Synallaxis coryi* from Mérida.

6. *Berlepsch on Birds from Brazil and North Peru.*

[Systematisches Verzeichniss der von Herrn Gustav Garlepp in Brasilien und Nord-Peru, im Gebiete des oberen Amazonas, gesammelten Vogelbälge. Von Hans von Berlepsch. J. f. O. 1889, p. 97.]

Our friend Hans Graf v. Berlepsch writes on the collections made by Gustav Garlepp, primarily an insect-collector, sent out by Dr. Staudinger of Dresden, who has passed up the Amazons into Peru. The present paper gives an account of a small series obtained in 1884 at Fonteboa and Tunantins on the Middle Amazons. The 28 specimens are referred to 18 species, amongst which the most noticeable are *Oporornis*

agilis, a winter migrant from North America, and *Phaethornis filippii*, a scarce Humming-bird, of which the true home was previously uncertain.

7. Berlepsch's Notes on Neotropical Birds.

[Notes on some Neotropical Birds belonging to the United States National Museum. By Hans von Berlepsch. Proc. U. S. N. M. 1888, p. 559.]

This is a series of very useful notes upon "obscure specimens" belonging to the U. S. National Museum which have been sent to Graf v. Berlepsch for examination by the authorities of that establishment. The main portion of the paper is devoted to the Trochilidæ, upon which, as we all know, the Graf is a leading authority. At the close of the communication are given the results of an examination of six of Mr. Lawrence's types belonging to other families of Birds.

8. Büttikofer on a new Gallinule.

[On a new Species of Gallinule. By J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xi. p. 191.]

The new Gallinule is *Porphyrio hemmeleni* from Sumatra, allied to *P. poliocephalus*. It is based on a specimen received alive at the Zoological Gardens, Rotterdam, now in the Leyden Museum.

9. Büttikofer on Birds from South-western Africa.

[Third List of Birds from South-western Africa. By J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xi. p. 193.]

A new consignment of birds received from Mr. van der Kellen from Gambos on the Upper Cunene contains examples of 62 species, 15 of which were not included in Mr. Büttikofer's two previous lists of birds from this district. The total number of species of which examples have been received from this collector is now 195.

10. Chapman on a new Humming-bird.

[Description of a new Species of Humming-bird of the Genus *Amazilia*. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. ii. p. 163.]

Amazilia encobrunnea is based on a single specimen in the American Museum of Natural History, said to be from Bogota. It is quite a distinct species, but comes nearest to *A. lawrencii*, Elliot.

11. Chapman on the Genus *Xiphorhynchus*.

[A Revision of the Genus *Xiphorhynchus*, Swainson, with Descriptions of two new Species. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. ii. p. 153.]

Mr. Chapman has revised the species of the peculiar Dendrocolaptine genus *Xiphorhynchus*, having for his material the specimens of the Lafresnaye Collection, those of the U. S. N. Museum, and of the Lawrence, Maximilian, and Verreaux Collections now in the American Museum of Natural History. He describes three species as new, namely, *X. venezuelensis* (the Venezuelan form of *X. trochilirostris*), *X. dorsimaculatus*, based on a single specimen supposed to be from Cayenne, and *X. rufidorsalis* from Matto Grosso (*H. H. Smith*). Altogether nine species are recognized, of which a key is given. Mr. Chapman has "not examined" *X. pucherani*, which is unquestionably a good species of this genus, and not of *Drymornis*, as he suggests.

12. Dalgleish on Nests and Eggs from Paraguay.

[Notes on a Collection of Birds and Eggs from the Republic of Paraguay: By J. J. Dalgleish, M.B.O.U. Proc. R. Phys. Soc. Edinb. x. p. 73.]

Mr. Dalgleish gives interesting notes on the nesting and eggs of 28 species of birds collected by his former correspondent in Uruguay, who has now settled in Paraguay, in the Estancia of Ytañu, about 80 miles south of Asuncion. The species were determined by the Editor of this Journal from specimens sent to him by Mr. Dalgleish. Three eggs of *Chauna chavaria* taken from the nest on Dec. 20th, 1887, are described as "of an elongated oval form, and dull white colour, measuring on an average $3\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{7}{10}$ inches."

13. *Etheridge on the Birds of Lord Howe Island.*

[Lord Howe Island, its Zoology, Geology, and Physical Characters. The Australian Museum, Sydney. Memoirs, no. 2. Sydney: 1889.]

Mr. R. Etheridge, Jr., in his report on the general zoology of Lord Howe Island, devotes several pages to a very interesting account of its birds, of which about 40 species are now known. Nine of these, as shown by Mr. Etheridge's Table (p. 17), are restricted to the island. They belong to Australian genera except the Thrush (*Merula vinitincta*). One of them, *Gerygone thorpei* (Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. 1887, ii. pt. 4, p. 677), is a recent discovery made by Mr. Etheridge's expedition. The extinct *Notornis alba* (Ibis, 1873, p. 295, t. x.) was not heard of. The Woodhen of Lord Howe Island (*Ocydromus sylvestris*) "unless protected" will shortly share the fate of the *Notornis*. "At the present time its range is confined to the extreme southern end of the island, in Erskine Valley, and the ground around the sea-girt base of Mount Gower. It is even now rare and difficult to obtain, and would be impossible of capture were it not for the fact that its curiosity overcomes its shyness. Its gradual extinction is probably due to the ravages committed by the wild domestic cats. During a journey to Mount Gower, primarily to procure specimens, only one individual was seen, and during the whole of our residence there those well acquainted with their haunts could obtain but four others. *Ocydromus sylvestris* can be attracted within gun-shot by any continuous and varied noise, such as knocking two stones together, striking against a tree, occasional whistling, and other peculiar but discordant noises."

14. *Giglioli's First Report on the Results of the Ornithological Investigation of Italy.*

[Primo Resoconto dei risultati della inchiesta Ornitologica in Italia. Parte prima, Avifauna Italiana. Elenco sistematico delle specie di Uccelli stazionarie o di Passaggio in Italia, con nuovi nomi Volgari, e colle notizie sin qui fornite dai collaboratori nella inchiesta Ornitologica. Compilato dal Dottore Enrico Hillyer Giglioli. 8vo. Firenze: 1889, pp. 706.]

The first results of the participation of Italy in the Inter-

national Ornithological Congress of 1884 at Vienna were the establishment by the Minister of Agriculture of an "Uffizio Ornitologico" at Florence, in connection with the well-known collection of Italian Vertebrates in that city, and the nomination of Dr. Giglioli as the Director of the new Office. The Director commenced his duties by the preparation and publication of the excellent 'Avifauna Italica,' noticed in this Journal in 1886 (Ibis, 1886, p. 516). He has now taken a second step in advance. Like Austria, Germany, and some other countries, Italy, under Dr. Giglioli's guidance, has inaugurated a large corps of observers scattered over the kingdom, who report to the "Uffizio Ornitologico" on the birds of their different districts. The list of these collaborators is, it will be seen, a long one. The present volume gives us an abstract of their reports on each of the 450 species enumerated in the 'Avifauna Italica.' These are systematically arranged under the generic and specific names adopted in the Avifauna, to which a full list of the various local names is appended. Thus, on turning to the name of any particular species, we find the mode and time of its occurrence in Italy, from north to south, and in Sicily and Sardinia, succinctly set forth. An excellent idea of its distribution is thus gathered at a glance.

It is interesting to note that all researches in Sardinia have as yet failed in ascertaining the occurrence of *Sitta whiteheadi* in that island. It would appear therefore that this species is absolutely restricted to Corsica.

15. *Leverkühn on the Legendary History of the Hoopoe.*

[Der Wiedehopf in den Legenden der Araber. Von Paul Leverkühn. Zool. Garten, 1889, p. 173.]

Herr P. Leverkühn translates into German, from Curzon's 'Monasteries of the Levant,' a curious Arabic legend about King Solomon and the Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*). Apparently Herr Leverkühn only knows Curzon's work from an American edition, 1856. We may therefore inform him that this well-known book was originally published in London by Murray in 1849.

16. *Leverkühn on Variations in the Coloration of Birds.*

[Ueber Farbenvarietäten bei Vögeln. Von Paul Leverkühn. J. f. O. 1889, p. 121.]

Herr Leverkühn continues his account of cases of general or partial albinism and other variations in colour which occur in various birds. The present article contains his notes on examples of such cases observed during a visit to the Museums of Bremen, Göttingen, and Kiel—together in 41 species.

17. *Leverkühn on the Literature of Syrrhaptes.*

[Litterarisches über das Steppenhuhn, zweite Revue, nebst Original-Mittheilungen über die 1888er Invasion, von Paul Leverkühn. Monatssch. Deutsch. Ver. Schutze Vogelw. xiv.]

The number of papers and articles on this well-worn subject is very large. Herr Leverkühn's second attempt at some account of it gives us references to more than 200 titles, and other information which may be useful to those at work on it. Seven eggs laid in North Germany and Jutland are described. The supposed eggs from Kent referred to by the author are now well known to be supposititious.

18. *Menzbier and Severtzow on the Ornithology of Turkestan.*

[Dr. N. A. Severtzow. Ornithologie du Turkestan et des Pays adjacents. Par M. le Docteur M. A. Menzbier. Livr. 2. Text and Atlas. Folio. Moscou: 1889.]

We have already noticed (*Ibis*, 1889, p. 388) the first livraison of this important work, and given some indication of its origin and scope. The second livraison now before us continues the account of the Diurnal Raptores. The accompanying atlas contains coloured lithographs of *Hierofalco uralensis* (two plates) and *Leptopæcile sophieæ*.

It appears that the whole work will extend to six volumes, which can only be acquired by subscription to the amount of £30. Mr. R. H. Porter is the English agent for this publication.

19. *Meyer on scarce Varieties of Tetrao.*

[Ueber einige seltene Exemplare von Rackel- und Birkwild in Museum Ferdinandeum zu Innsbruck. Von Dr. A. B. Meyer. Ferdinandeums-Zeitschrift, 1886, p. 225.]

Dr. A. B. Meyer, who is, as we all know, our chief authority on the Grouse and their hybrids and variations, now gives us an account of certain specimens belonging to the Museum Ferdinandeum of Innsbruck, which have been entrusted to him for examination. Five of these curious freaks of nature are here described and commented upon. They are hybrids or varieties of *Tetrao urogallus* and *T. tetrix*.

20. *Muirhead on the Birds of Berwickshire.*

[The Birds of Berwickshire, with remarks on their local distribution, migration, and habits, and also on the folk-lore, proverbs, popular rhymes, and sayings connected with them. By George Muirhead, F.R.S.E., F.Z.S., &c. Vol. I. 8vo. Edinburgh: 1889.]

This is the first instalment of a work which, as the title indicates, is far more than a mere account of birds as observed in Berwickshire alone. Its wealth of illustration—nearly every chapter or article having a beautifully etched vignette—makes it quite a drawing-room book; in fact we remember nothing like it since the publication of Wise's 'New Forest,' some five-and-twenty years ago. The letter-press has evidently been prepared with great care, its style is excellent and scholarly, a vast amount of antiquarian and etymological research is displayed, and altogether the book commends itself to a far wider circle than that of the mere ornithologist. Those who have not subscribed to it are to be pitied, for to them the price is considerably (and justly) raised.

21. *Ridgway on new Costa-Rican Birds.*

[Notes on Costa Rican Birds, with Descriptions of Seven new Species and Subspecies and One new Genus. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1888, p. 537.]

The authorities of the National Museum of Costa Rica

have sent Mr. Ridgway a large collection of birds from that country for examination. Amongst these the following new species and subspecies are represented:—*Zeledonia coronata*, *Microcerculus orpheus*, *Geothlypis caninucha icterotis*, *Xiphocolaptes emigrans costaricensis*, *Picolaptes gracilis*, *Sclerurus canigularis*, *Picumnus flavotinctus*, *Dendroornis punctigula*, and *Dendrocolaptes variegatus*. Notes on other rare species are given. The position of the new genus *Zeledonia* (at first believed to be Pteroptochine, cf. Ibis, 1889, p. 262) is still uncertain.

22. Robinson on Albino Birds.

[Notes on some Albino Birds presented to the U.S. National Museum, with some Remarks on Albinism. By Lieut. Wirt Robinson. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1888, p. 413.]

Mr. Robinson gives an account of some albino specimens in the U.S. National Museum, chiefly examples obtained by himself in Virginia, and discusses the theory of albinism without coming to any definite conclusions.

23. Salvadori on three new Birds from Burmah.

[Descrizione di tre nuove specie di uccelli raccolte nei Monti Carin da Leonardo Fea. Per T. Salvadori. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, ser. 2, vii. p. 363.]

These three species, discovered by Sign. Fea on the Karennee mountains, are named *Suthora feæ*, *Malacias castanopterus*, and *Poliopsar fuscogularis**.

24. Salvadori on the Birds collected by Fea in Burmah.

[Uccelli raccolti nei Monti Carin a Nord-est di Tounghoo nel Pegù presso Rangoon e Tounghoo e nel Tenasserim presso Malewoon. Per Tomaso Salvadori. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, ser. 2, vii. p. 369.]

Sig. Leonardo Fea having now returned to Europe to recruit his health, and having brought his last collection with him, we are supplied with a complete account of the birds by Count Salvadori in his usual excellent style. Fea's recent

* On this species, cf. Sharpe, Ibis, 1889, p. 580, and Salvad. *infra*, p. 130.

collecting-grounds have been Malewoun, near the eastern extremity of Tenasserim, in Pegu near Rangoon and near Tonghoo, and in Karennee. Of these three series, that of Karennee is by far the largest and most important, and the account of it occupies the greater part of Count Salvadori's memoir. Karennee, as will be seen on looking at the map in Mr. Oates's 'Handbook to the Birds of British Burmah,' lies between the north-eastern corner of Pegu and the river Salween, and is hitherto chiefly known to us ornithologically from Mr. Wardlaw Ramsay's explorations*. Sig. Fea claims to have penetrated into its unknown recesses further than any other explorer†. During his two journeys into the Karennee mountains in 1887 and 1888 he accumulated 467 specimens of birds, which are referred by Count Salvadori to 165 species. Of these the greater number are also found in the higher districts of Tenasserim, and have been already noted as met with in Karennee by Mr. Wardlaw Ramsay. But Sig. Fea's investigations have added about 60 species to this avifauna. Of these 60 three have been described as new in a previous paper (see above, p. 118), and five others are now characterized under the names *Cypselus minusculus*, *Cyornis dialilama*, *Zosterops mesoxantha*, *Pomatorhinus imberbis*, and *Merula subobscura*. Moreover five other species of which specimens were obtained by Sig. Fea are new to the Burmese list, though known from adjoining countries.

While we heartily congratulate Sig. Fea on his brilliant discoveries in this and other branches of zoology, and agree to the truth of the proverb "Philosophus non habet patriam," we cannot help remarking that it is not creditable, either to our own government or to Englishmen generally, to leave the exploration of British India to be undertaken by naturalists of other nations.

* Cf. Ibis, 1875, p. 348, and other papers by the same author and by Lord Tweeddale.

† Cf. Boletino d. Soc. Geogr. Ital. 1888, p. 854.

25. *Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Tubinares and Steganopodes.*

[Observations upon the Osteology of the Orders Tubinares and Steganopodes. By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xi. p. 253.]

In this article Dr. Shufeldt describes and illustrates the skeletons of *Oceanodroma furcata* and *Fulmarus glacialis rodgersi*, and summarises the points in which they differ. In like manner he describes the skeleton of *Diomedea albatrus*, and states his agreement with Forbes's views (Scient. Mem. p. 434) as to relationship of the Tubinares. He then turns to the Steganopodes, and discusses at full length the osteology of *Sula bassana* and a skull of *Pelecanus fuscus*.

26. *Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Herons.*

[Osteological Studies of the Subfamily Ardeinæ. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D., C.M.Z.S. Journ. Comp. Med. & Surg., July 1889.]

This memoir is chiefly devoted to a full account of the osteological characters of *Ardea herodias*, which is well chosen as a type of the true Ardeinæ. Some general observations are prefaced, in the course of which the author well remarks that many of the nine genera into which recent authors have divided the North-American Ardeinæ are superfluous, and that they may be safely reduced to two—*Ardea* and *Nycticorax*.

27. *Sousa on new Collections from Angola.*

[Aves de Angola de exploração do Sr. José de Anchieta. Por José Augusto de Sousa. Journ. Sci. Math. Phys. e Nat. Lisboa, 2ª ser. no. 2, 1889, p. 113.]

M. de Sousa, Conservator of the Zoological Section of the Lisbon Museum, gives an account of two Angolan collections recently received from Sr. Anchieta. The first, from Catumbella, contains examples of 36 species, amongst which are two specimens of an *Ægialitis*, allied to *Æ. venusta* and *Æ. mechorsi*, but presenting some differential features, also the first example of *Hydrochelidon nigra* received from Angola. The second collection, from Quissanga, in Benguela, contains specimens of 29 species.

28. *Stejneger on Japanese Nutcrackers.*

[Review of Japanese Birds.—VIII. The Nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes macrorhynchos*). By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1888, p. 425.]

Dr. Stejneger has studied the Nutcrackers and come to the conclusion that the correct names for the two slightly different forms of this widely spread species are *Nucifraga caryocatactes macrorhynchos* and *N. c. brachyrhynchos*. As regards the Japanese Nutcrackers, his material "contradicts Mr. Seeböhm's suggestion that the resident bird is to all intents and purposes identical with the resident form in Europe." On the contrary, he considers it identical with the Siberian or slender-billed form, *N. c. macrorhynchos*.

29. *Stejneger on Japanese Wrens.*

[Review of Japanese Birds.—IX. The Wrens. By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1888, p. 547.]

Continuing his studies on Japanese birds, Dr. Stejneger now discusses the Wrens, of which he assigns two forms to the Japanese Empire, *Troglodytes fumigatus*, from Yezo, Hondo, and Kiusiu, and *T. f. kurilensis*, from the Kurile Islands.

30. *Tristram's Catalogue of his Collection.*

[Catalogue of a Collection of Birds belonging to H. B. Tristram, D.D., LL.D., F.R.S. Durham: 1889.]

Our much-valued friend and correspondent, Canon Tristram, has every reason to be proud of his collection of birds, which embraces more than 17,000 specimens, and is certainly one of the most important of English private collections, after that of Messrs. Salvin and Godman. Like most other ornithologists, he began with "British birds," adding in 1844 specimens obtained in Switzerland and North Italy. Then a residence in Bermuda and a visit to North America induced him to study and collect the feathered tribes of the Nearctic Region. To these were subsequently added the fruits of his well-known expeditions to Algeria and Palestine, with the

particulars of which all readers of 'The Ibis' must be well acquainted. Not many ornithologists of the present day have enjoyed equal opportunities of studying their favourite subject in the field, or have done it with such good results. Not only as an observer and collector, but also as a chronicler of his notes and discoveries, few of us, indeed, can compete with Canon Tristram!

During these last twenty years our friend has devoted his special attention to the avifauna of the islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and, aided by his numerous correspondents in these far-away parts, in the shape of naval officers, missionaries, and consuls, has achieved, as will be seen by reference to his catalogue, very successful results. *Nestor productus* of Norfolk Island, *Monarcha dimidiata* of Rarotonga (both now extinct), and *Pericrocotus tegimæ* of the Loo Choos, are prizes that even a national museum would be proud to possess. Besides these and many other rarities, there are about 128 "types" in the series.

The Catalogue begins with the Ratitæ and ends with the Passeres. Under the head of each genus the species are arranged in alphabetical order. The specimens are designated by letters, and the sex, locality, date, and name of collector are attached when known. Thus we find the much-discussed Grebe of Vancouver's Island entered as "*Podiceps occidentalis*, Lawr., b. ♀. Breeding-plumage. Vancouver's Island.—Burn [*lege* Brown—Ed.]. Mus. Sir W. Jardine. Specimen described Ibis, 1887, p. 98." [See also Ibis, 1887, pp. 259, 361; 1888, p. 148.—Ed.]

31. *Van Kempen on rare Birds of the North of France.*

[Sur quelques Oiseaux rares du Nord de la France. Par Ch. Van Kempen. Bull. Soc. Zool. France, xiv. p. 104.]

M. Van Kempen gives a list of a mounted collection of rare birds said to have been procured near Dunkirk, of which he has lately become the possessor. It comprises examples of three species—*Sula fiber*, *Procellaria conspicillata*, and *Diomedea fuliginosa*—which we are certainly surprised to hear

of. But we fear that the account given of their history is not very satisfactory.

32. *Waterhouse's 'Index Generum Avium.'*

[Index Generum Avium. A List of the Genera and Subgenera of Birds. By F. H. Waterhouse, A.L.S., Librarian to the Zoological Society of London. London: R. H. Porter, 1889.]

As is stated in the preface to this work, the 'Index Generum Avium' consists of an alphabetical list of about 7000 terms that have been employed or suggested by various authors, since the date of the twelfth edition of Linnæus's 'Systema Naturæ,' as generic and subgeneric names for birds, and of references to the places and dates of their publication. No attempt has been made to discriminate between these various terms as to which of them should be most correctly employed. Such points are left for the decision of those who use the 'Index.' But so much time is often lost in ascertaining where and when a generic name was first given, that it is believed that the information thus accumulated in a handy form cannot fail to be of much practical value.

One of the most active and experienced members of the B. O. U. has kindly favoured us with his opinion of the present work as follows:—

"The idea of Mr. Waterhouse's book is excellent, and only those who work at synonymy day by day and year by year, as the writer is compelled to do with the 'Catalogue of Birds,' can comprehend what a boon has been given to us by the work now offered to the public. It is by far the most complete and carefully compiled Index to the Genera of Birds; and by the attention which the author has given to verifying his references, the value of the book will be rendered permanent, and it will not be easily superseded, as the compilations of some of his predecessors in the same field of literature have been."—R. B. S.

33. *Winge on Pallas's Sand Grouse in Denmark.*

[Om Steppenhönen (*Syrnhaptes paradoxus*) i Danmark i 1888. Sammenstillet af Herluf Winge. Vidensk. Meddel. naturh. Forening Kjöbenhavn, 1889, p. 57.]

Mr. Herluf Winge has put together in this memoir what seems to be a very complete account of the invasion of *Syrnhaptus paradoxus* into Denmark in 1888. The incursion commenced on April 26th, when examples were observed near Vordingborg. On the first days in May they were numerous in many localities. Mr. Winge gives exact details as to the occurrences observed in every part of Denmark. A map of the localities would have rendered this part of the subject more intelligible.

XII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters addressed to the Editor of 'The Ibis':—

Turin Zoological Museum,
October 27, 1889.

SIR,—Allow me to send you a few remarks on Mr. Waterhouse's 'Index Generum Avium,' of which I have lately received a copy. It is a most useful book to the working ornithologist, and I do not wish to criticize it, but only to point out a few omissions and mistakes which have occurred to me on a cursory look through it. I cannot find the following genera mentioned:—

Erythrotriorchis, Gurney, MSS.; Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1875 (April 20), p. 338; Gurney, Ibis, 1876, p. 65; id. List Diurn. B. of Prey, p. 45 (1884).

Hirundolanus, Clarke, Trans. N.Z. Inst. xiii. p. 454 (1881); Buller, B. of New Zeal. 2nd ed. i. p. 119.

Ionocicca, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. ser. 2, iii. p. 236 (1886).

Lambruschinia, Salvad. Cat. Uccelli Sardegna, p. 128 (1864).

Melopotitta, Stejneger, Stand. Nat. Hist. iv. Birds, p. 466 (1885); id. Auk, vi. p. 79 (1889).

The date (1839) attributed to Bonaparte's 'Introduzione' to the birds of the 'Fauna Italica,' where the generic names *Bonasia*, *Casarca*, *Cettia*, *Chettusia*, *Chlorospiza*, *Citrinella*,